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Secretary Napolitano Recognizes Accomplishments Of The National Network of Fusion Centers

DENVER -- During an awards presentation at the National Fusion Center Conference today, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice and the Office of Director of National Intelligence recognized outstanding centers and personnel from across the national network of fusion centers.

After her keynote remarks at the Conference, DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano presented this year's awards and said of fusion centers, "these efforts will allow frontline personnel to understand local implications of national intelligence, thus enabling local officials to better protect their communities."

Award winners included:

- Fusion Center of the Year Tennessee Fusion Center (TFC): The TFC was recognized for its progress in analyzing and sharing terrorism and criminal information among federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies across Tennessee at both the tactical and strategic levels. Its collaborative efforts and partnerships to leverage terrorism, crime, critical infrastructure/key resources, and Suspicious Activity Reporting information have strengthened the fusion process across the state.
- Fusion Center Federal Representative of the Year John Sullivan of the FBI and Mohamed Telab of DHS, both assigned to the New Jersey Regional Operations Intelligence Center (ROIC): Sullivan and Telab were commended for their collaborative work in support of the missions of their respective agencies as well as the ROIC. Both demonstrated commitment to cooperation and willingness to share information to support New Jersey's homeland security efforts. These efforts have enabled the ROIC to mature its critical operational capabilities.

• State/Local Fusion Center Representative of the Year – Oxana Munson, Tennessee Fusion Center (TFC): Munson was recognized for her support to building the analytic capabilities of the TFC. She also strengthened collaboration with partners at all levels of government to develop joint analytic products.

The fifth annual conference brought together more than 1,000 fusion center directors, homeland security advisors, law enforcement and intelligence partners to support the integrated national network of state and major urban area fusion centers. The conference provides a venue for fusion center personnel from across the nation to exchange best practices, build stronger partnerships, and enhance fusion centers' critical operational capabilities to become centers of analytic excellence.

Located in states and major urban areas throughout the country, fusion centers are uniquely situated to empower frontline law enforcement, public safety, fire service, emergency response, public health, and private sector security personnel to identify, mitigate and respond to threats and leverage national intelligence to protect local communities.

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